

Chowan County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Monday July 9, 2007
6:00pm
1767 Chowan County Courthouse
117 East King Street

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting on Monday, July 9, 2007, at 6:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, 117 East King Street.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Ralph Cole, Bill Gardner, Kenny Goodwin, Jerry Downum, Louis Belfield and Harry Lee Winslow. Also present were County Manager, Cliff Copeland; County Attorney, Peter Rascoe and County Clerk, Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Cole called the meeting to order and offered the invocation.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Alligood moved that the Consent Agenda be approved including the minutes from the June 26, 2007 Special Meeting and the following budget amendments:

Budget Amendments

6131 After school Plus	increase	\$22,166	CBA Grant
4931 CWMTF	increase	\$97,000	Storm water Planning Grant
Storm water project			
6130 Recreation	increase	\$123,150	Loan to install lights at Fisher Field

Tax Releases

D Gokel	\$324.35	Sold Camper
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Chairman Cole asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Chairman Cole then noted the item of business and asked Patty Madry, EMS Coordinator to give a report on the special recognition.

Special Recognition

Ms. Madry said that Dean and William Heffernan and Winston Blackledge were mowing and cleaning their yard one afternoon was hot and when their mowing was done the boys wanted to go swimming. (Pond belonging to Scott Winslow and family). Dean asked the owners if it was ok for the boys to swim and was given permission if Dean stayed with the boys. William walked out into the water and evidently stepped off a ledge into water over his head. Dean told Sandra (wife) to call 911. Dean jumped in to save William. William was in a panic and was pulling Dean down. Dean was trying to push William up out of the water but he couldn't.

Winston was on an inner tube with a rope attached. Winston reached William and pulled him on to the tube. He then tried to get Dean on the tube. Scott Winslow had got to the pond reached and

pulled Dean out of the water. At this time Dean had passed out. Doctors told him probably due to exhaustion.

Winston has been recognized by the TV stations, radio stations, local newspapers and various other agencies for his efforts that day.

Chairman Cole presented Winston with a certificate of recognition for his ability to remain calm in a stressful situation, resulting in the saving of two lives.

Public Hearing- Wireless Telecommunications Co-location Sprint/Nextel

Planner, Wes Haskett presented a Conditional Use Permit application for a wireless telecommunications project from Sprint/Nextel to co-locate on an existing tower located at 629 Macedonia Road. He said that all applicable regulations of the Chowan County Development Codes and staff concerns have been identified he added that staff recommends approval of the application as the ordinance encourages co-location on existing towers.

Chairman Cole asked for any public comment (there was none). He then closed the floor to the public hearing and asked for a motion on the application.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the application be approved. Chairman Cole asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Public Hearing – FY 2007-08 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP)

County Manager, Cliff Copeland presented an application from Chowan County to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He said that ROAP consolidates the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP), the Employment Transportation Program (EMP) and the Rural General Public (RGP) Transportation Program into a single application package. The amount allocated for ROAP is:

EDTAP	\$38,303
EMP	\$3,456
RGP	<u>\$28,836</u>
TOTAL	\$70,595

He then presented a resolution which is a certified statement for the Board's consideration.

CERTIFIED STATEMENT FY 2007 – 2008 RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Whereas Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Governor of North Carolina have designated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the agency responsible for administering all federal and/or state programs related to public transportation, and grants NCDOT authority to do all things required in applicable federal and/or state legislation to properly administer the public transportation programs within the State of North Carolina;

WHEREAS, G.S. 136-44.27 established the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program;

WHEREAS, funds will be used for transportation related expenditures as specified in the FY 2007 - 2008 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) application;

WHEREAS, information regarding use of the funds will be provided at such time and in such a manner as NCDOT may require;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the North Carolina Department of Transportation that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Business Enterprises and Women Owned Business Enterprises shall have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or part by Federal and State funds in order to create a level playing field, and the county shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract.

WHEREAS, ROAP funds will be used to provide eligible services during the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008;

WHEREAS, any interest earned on ROAP funds will be expended for eligible program uses as specified in the ROAP application; and

WHEREAS, the County will include ROAP funds received and expended in its annual independent audit on the schedule of federal and state financial assistance. Funds passed through to other agencies will be identified as such.

This is to certify that the undersigned is duly elected, qualified and acting chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Chowan, North Carolina, and that the following statements are true and accurate:

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program

1. The funds received from G.S. 136-44.27 will be used to provide transportation services for the elderly and disabled allowing individuals to reside for a longer period in their homes, thereby enhancing their quality of life.
2. The funds will not be used to supplant or replace existing federal, state or local funds designated to provide elderly and disabled transportation services in the county.

Employment Transportation Assistance Program

1. The purpose of these transportation funds is to support transitional transportation needs of Work First participants after eligibility for cash assistance has concluded and/or other specified general public employment transportation needs
2. The funds are limited to use by the local Department of Social Services, Work Force Development Program or the community transportation system.
3. The funds may be transferred to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program or the Rural General Public Program after an assessment of employment transportation needs in the service area indicates that employment transportation needs are substantially being

met. This assessment will occur prior to any transfer of funds and following submission of a statement to that effect from the County Manager to the Public Transportation Division.

Rural General Public Program

1. The funds are limited to use by the community transportation system.
2. The funds will not be used to provide human service agency trips.

Chairman Cole then opened the floor to public comment (there was none). He asked for a motion on the application and Resolution. Commissioner Downum moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the application and adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Human Services Committee Report

Commissioner Gardner shared that the Human Services Committee received updates from the Recreation Department on the status of the Red Banks Farm Athletic Complex plans. The County will begin receiving bids in August for the park. He said that Carrie Byrum updated the committee on the implementation of the Workers Comp and Safety Plan upgrades. He said that Jean Bunch with the Chowan Regional Healthcare Foundation's, NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission's NICO-Teen-Free-way program presented information to the Committee on the harmful effects of second hand smoke at outdoor recreational facilities. He added that this issue was previously discussed with the Committee and it was the consensus of the committee at that time that an absolute ban of tobacco products at parks and playgrounds would present enforcement problems and infringe on individual rights. Commissioner Gardner said that the committee recommended the attached proclamation which strongly discourages tobacco use at the Chowan County operated parks and playground adding that the signs at the parks will not ban smoking but will say it is discouraged.

Proclamation – 2007 Tobacco Free Parks and Playgrounds

Mr. Copeland read the proclamation into the record.

**2007 Tobacco Free Parks and Playgrounds Proclamation
By, Chowan County**

WHEREAS, the community leaders of Chowan County realize the importance of protecting the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors, including youth participants, by discouraging the use of tobacco in our parks and playgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, family friendly venues such as parks and playgrounds should be free of toxins emitted from secondhand cigarette smoke; and,

WHEREAS, adults and teens engaging in tobacco use in the presence of children have a negative effect on lifestyle choices made by youth; and,

WHEREAS, butt depots or littered cigarettes are also blights on the natural beauty of our parks and playgrounds, which require additional clean up expenses and creates a threat to our ecosystems; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Chowan County affirms its commitment to provide healthy park and playground environments (clean air, positive role models and less litter) for its citizens, visitors and youth participants by discouraging the use of tobacco in County operated parks and playgrounds with the use of appropriate education and notifications.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the Board adopt the proclamation. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Public Safety Committee Report

Mr. Copeland shared that the Public Safety Committee received activity reports from the Sheriff Department, Emergency Medical Services and Animal Control. He said that a delegation from Cape Colony Property Owners Association attended the committee meeting to present some recommendations vis-à-vis Law Enforcement. He said that suggestions were made by the delegation to increase police presence of deputies in the subdivision, drug enforcement, strong enforcement of speed limit, stricter nuisance/noise ordinances, additional deputies and more secure communications (can not listen to law enforcement on a scanner). He said that the committee agreed that the County Manager and the Sheriff report back to the Committee. Mr. Copeland said that some of the issues have already been addressed but others will require additional resources.

Sheriff Goodwin added that a speed trailer was set up at Cape Colony to monitor speed.

County Attorney, Peter Rascoe noted that he is reviewing the noise ordinance to see if it could be amended.

Animal Shelter Report

Animal Shelter Director, Mary Bass provided updates on activities for the Tri-County Animal Shelter and Animal Control. She said that safety issues at the shelter have been addressed with the installation of fans, switches, beacon lights, secured tanks, handrails, strips on floors, AC unit relocation, exhaust fan relocation, and no-skid flooring. She said that these improvements have made a big difference at the shelter. She noted the Albemarle Learning Center is set up to be a companion shelter. She said that the shelter stays at capacity and currently houses 34 dogs and 54 cats.

Voting Delegate to the Association of County Commissioners Conference

Chairman Cole, Commissioner Belfield and Commissioner Winslow will attend the conference in Fayetteville. Chairman Cole asked the Board for a nomination of a voting delegate for the conference. Commissioner Alligood moved that Chairman Cole be the voting delegate at the conference. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Schedule Commissioner Tour

Chairman Cole noted that two dates were selected for the Board to tour RiverSound Development, Cypress Landing Condominiums, Sandy Point Development, Library Expansion and the Public Safety Center construction. Two dates were given and July 30th was selected by the Commissioners. Chairman Cole noted that the group will depart from the County Office Building parking lot at 8:30am.

Public Comment

Chairman Cole asked for any public comment (there was none).

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland shared that a new water billing method is now in place. He said a Frequently Asked Questions page is on the website and available for the Commissioners to assist in answering questions from the public. He noted that he hopes to get something going soon with the Affordable Housing Commission.

Chowan Co. Ad Valorem Taxes Settlement Report

Mr. Copeland presented the report and asked the Board that they adopt the report as verification that they have received it.

Commissioner Belfield moved that the report be accepted. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ralph V Cole
Chairman

L. Susanne Stallings
Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)